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T

ime Critics
Lev Grossman and
Richard Lacayo pick the
100 best English-language
novels from 1923
to the present

[Read the Complete List »](#)**About the List**

- » Managing Editor James Kelly talks about the list and shares his John Le Carre favorite (which didn't make the cut).
- » Richard Lacayo lays bare the process (and the pain) behind stacking up 100 novels.

Reader's Choice

- 1:
- 2: [Lolita](#)
- 3: [A Passage to India](#)
- 4: [A Death in the Family](#)
- 5: [Ubik](#)

[See the full list »](#)**Best Graphic Novels**

TIME's Andrew
Arnold picks
Watchmen and nine
other comix
masterpieces

Archive Trivia

The Complete List

In Alphabetical Order

[PRINT](#)**A - B**• **The Adventures of Augie March**

Saul Bellow

• **All the King's Men**

Robert Penn Warren

[Read the Original Review »](#)• **American Pastoral**

Philip Roth

[Read the Original Review »](#)• **An American Tragedy**

Theodore Dreiser

• **Animal Farm**

George Orwell

[Read the Original Review »](#)• **Appointment in Samarra**

John O'Hara

[Read the Original Review »](#)• **Are You There God? It's Me, Margaret**

Judy Blume

• **The Assistant**

Bernard Malamud

[Read the Original Review »](#)• **At Swim-Two-Birds**

Flann O'Brien

• **Atonement**

Ian McEwan

[Read the Original Review »](#)**L - N**• **Light in August**

William Faulkner

[Read the Original Review »](#)• **The Lion, The Witch and the Wardrobe**

C.S. Lewis

• **Lolita**

Vladimir Nabokov

[Read the Original Review »](#)• **Lord of the Flies**

William Golding

• **The Lord of the Rings**

J.R.R. Tolkien

[Read the Original Review »](#)• **Loving**

Henry Green

[Read the Original Review »](#)• **Lucky Jim**

Kingsley Amis

[Read the Original Review »](#)• **The Man Who Loved Children**

Christina Stead

[Read the Original Review »](#)• **Midnight's Children**

Salman Rushdie

• **Money**

Martin Amis

[Read the Original Review »](#)• **The Moviegoer**

Walker Percy



Who was the first author to appear on a TIME cover? Get the answer and much more on our [trivia page](#)

Talk Back

“Why isn't the *Harry Potter* series on there!?? It definitely should be on there!!”

—Robin; Seattle, Wash.

“Where is Ayn Rand and John Irving? I checked your list twice, I can't believe you did not list either author.”

—Susan Sayfan; Longwood, Fla.

[Send us your thoughts »](#)

From the TIME Archive



Ernest Hemingway
"Make no mistake, Ernest Hemingway is somebody; a new, honest, un-'literary' transcriber of life...."
Writer 1/18/26

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[All-TIME 100 Movies »](#)

TIME critics Richard Corliss and Richard Schickel offer their list of 100 great films



[50 Best Websites »](#)

[The Top 10 Everything of 2008 »](#)

• **Beloved**

Toni Morrison

[Read the Original Review »](#)

• **The Berlin Stories**

Christopher Isherwood

[Read the Original Review »](#)

• **The Big Sleep**

Raymond Chandler

[Read the Original Review »](#)

• **The Blind Assassin**

Margaret Atwood

[Read the Original Review »](#)

• **Blood Meridian**

Cormac McCarthy

• **Brideshead Revisited**

Evelyn Waugh

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• **The Bridge of San Luis Rey**

Thornton Wilder

[Read the Original Review »](#)

C - D

• **Call It Sleep**

Henry Roth

[Read the Original Review »](#)

• **Catch-22**

Joseph Heller

[Read the Original Review »](#)

• **The Catcher in the Rye**

J.D. Salinger

[Read the Original Review »](#)

• **A Clockwork Orange**

Anthony Burgess

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• **The Confessions of Nat Turner**

William Styron

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• **The Corrections**

Jonathan Franzen

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• **Mrs. Dalloway**

Virginia Woolf

• **Naked Lunch**

William Burroughs

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• **Native Son**

Richard Wright

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• **Neuromancer**

William Gibson

• **Never Let Me Go**

Kazuo Ishiguro

[Read the Original Review »](#)

• **1984**

George Orwell

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O - R

• **On the Road**

Jack Kerouac

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• **One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest**

Ken Kesey

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• **The Painted Bird**

Jerzy Kosinski

• **Pale Fire**

Vladimir Nabokov

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• **A Passage to India**

E.M. Forster

• **Play It As It Lays**

Joan Didion

• **Portnoy's Complaint**

Philip Roth

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• **Possession**

• **The Crying of Lot 49**

Thomas Pynchon

[Read the Original Review »](#)• **A Dance to the Music of Time**

Anthony Powell

[Read the Original Review »](#)• **The Day of the Locust**

Nathanael West

[Read the Original Review »](#)• **Death Comes for the Archbishop**

Willa Cather

• **A Death in the Family**

James Agee

• **The Death of the Heart**

Elizabeth Bowen

[Read the Original Review »](#)• **Deliverance**

James Dickey

[Read the Original Review »](#)• **Dog Soldiers**

Robert Stone

[Read the Original Review »](#)**F - G**• **Falconer**

John Cheever

[Read the Original Review »](#)• **The French Lieutenant's Woman**

John Fowles

[Read the Original Review »](#)• **The Golden Notebook**

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[Read the Original Review »](#)• **Go Tell it on the Mountain**

James Baldwin

[Read the Original Review »](#)• **Gone With the Wind**

Margaret Mitchell

[Read the Original Review »](#)

A.S. Byatt

[Read the Original Review »](#)• **The Power and the Glory**

Graham Greene

• **The Prime of Miss Jean Brodie**

Muriel Spark

[Read the Original Review »](#)• **Rabbit, Run**

John Updike

[Read the Original Review »](#)• **Ragtime**

E.L. Doctorow

[Read the Original Review »](#)• **The Recognitions**

William Gaddis

[Read the Original Review »](#)• **Red Harvest**

Dashiell Hammett

• **Revolutionary Road**

Richard Yates

S - T• **The Sheltering Sky**

Paul Bowles

[Read the Original Review »](#)• **Slaughterhouse-Five**

Kurt Vonnegut

[Read the Original Review »](#)• **Snow Crash**

Neal Stephenson

• **The Sot-Weed Factor**

John Barth

• **The Sound and the Fury**

William Faulkner

• **The Sportswriter**

Richard Ford

[Read the Original Review »](#)• **The Spy Who Came in From the Cold**

• **The Grapes of Wrath**

John Steinbeck

[Read the Original Review »](#)• **Gravity's Rainbow**

Thomas Pynchon

[Read the Original Review »](#)• **The Great Gatsby**

F. Scott Fitzgerald

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Evelyn Waugh

[Read the Original Review »](#)• **The Heart Is A Lonely Hunter**

Carson McCullers

[Read the Original Review »](#)• **The Heart of the Matter**

Graham Greene

• **Herzog**

Saul Bellow

[Read the Original Review »](#)• **Housekeeping**

Marilynne Robinson

[Read the Original Review »](#)• **A House for Mr. Biswas**

V.S. Naipaul

[Read the Original Review »](#)• **I, Claudius**

Robert Graves

[Read the Original Review »](#)• **Infinite Jest**

David Foster Wallace

[Read the Original Review »](#)• **Invisible Man**

Ralph Ellison

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John le Carre

[Read the Original Review »](#)• **The Sun Also Rises**

Ernest Hemingway

[Read the Original Review »](#)• **Their Eyes Were Watching God**

Zora Neale Hurston

[Read the Original Review »](#)• **Things Fall Apart**

Chinua Achebe

• **To Kill a Mockingbird**

Harper Lee

[Read the Original Review »](#)• **To the Lighthouse**

Virginia Woolf

[Read the Original Review »](#)• **Tropic of Cancer**

Henry Miller

[Read the Original Review »](#)**U - W**• **Ubik**

Philip K. Dick

• **Under the Net**

Iris Murdoch

• **Under the Volcano**

Malcolm Lowry

[Read the Original Review »](#)• **Watchmen**

Alan Moore & Dave Gibbons

• **White Noise**

Don DeLillo

[Read the Original Review »](#)• **White Teeth**

Zadie Smith

[Read the Original Review »](#)• **Wide Sargasso Sea**

Jean Rhys

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